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ANGOLA

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR STATES PARTIES THAT ARE IN THE PROCESS OF FULFILLING ARTICLE 5 OBLIGATIONS

**Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and
Mine Action Technologies**

June 4-5, 2008

Thank you MR CO-CHAIR

1. What is your State's plan to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under your State's jurisdiction or control as soon as possible?

A: The implementation of the Ottawa Convention has been observing various progresses with respect to its execution, counting at the moment with expertise and contributions from national and international partners in mine action. Angola had successfully complied with Article 4 (Stockpile Destruction) of the Convention and is currently tackling Article 5 by ensuring that all mined areas under its jurisdiction or control are cleared as soon as possible. To back this gigantic challenge the Government of Angola in its National Strategic Plan for Mine Action 2006-2011 has set out clear strategies and priorities in order to achieve this goal and it foresees a total reduction to 0% of all high-impacted areas, reduction to 50% of all medium-impacted areas and the marking of all low-impacted areas until 2011. The Government is also providing financial support and is busy equipping its public operators under the supervision of the Executive Demining Commission to undertake this huge task. As result of these priorities, inumerous demining brigades were deployed all over the 18 provinces, as well as the training of quality control teams who have been monitoring and certified the assurance of quality control of all demining actions undertaken by the operators (national and international) at country level.

2. What progress has been made in the implementation of your State's national demining programme since the last time an update was provided to the Standing Committee?

A: The progresses in the implementation of the State's national demining programme are significant. Since the completion of the LIS (Landmine Impact Survey) in 2007, it reported about 980.577.451 m² (100%) of mined areas, and so far 84.990.756 m² (4%), remaining 895.586.695 m² (96%) to be cleared. The demining programme also allowed the marking of mined areas, it has led for the substantial decrease in the numbers of mine victims in the country. Just to give you an overall picture of the current results of the demining programmes since 2005 -2007 there were about 110 injuries from mines in the 18 provinces, and in 2008 we have recorded 10 injuries in the 18 provinces in the month of May.

3. What work remains in order for your State to be in compliance with its obligation to have destroyed or ensured the destruction of all anti-

personnel mines in mined areas under your State's jurisdiction or control?

A: As far as the work that remains to be in compliance with Article 5 obligations we are to inform that more work will be conducted on the reduction and marking of suspected mined areas, awareness raising on the affected communities, while there is no full capacity in the demining technical-operational response from both public and private operators.

4. What, if any, circumstances may impede the ability of your State to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under your State's jurisdiction or control within ten years after entry into force of the Convention for your State? What is the prospective end-date for your State to have fully implemented Article 5?

R: The lack of financial and human resources, acquisition of more advanced technological means to reduce the number of impacted areas, absence of mine location maps, the insufficient support from the donor community, these indicators may prove to be an obstacle for our State's ability to fulfil Article 5 obligations of the Convention. With respect to the deadline for the implementation of Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention, Angola has until 2012 to achieve its goal, and the government of Angola is engaging all efforts to fully execute with its obligations.

5. What financial and technical means has your State dedicated to ensuring the fulfilment of your State's Article 5 obligations?

A: The Government of Angola has entirely assumed all financial, technological and human resources responsibility destined to demining activities in support of the National Reconstruction Process under the State Budget, but also receives financial support from International Donors. The Government established the National Executive Commission to accelerate the demining process, placing at the disposal of this Institution financial resources for the acquisition of demining mechanical equipments, training of deminers and capacitybuilding projects for INAD brigades, Army (FAA) and the National Reconstruction Office (GRN).

6. What new Technologies, if any, are being explore or have been employed in your State's effort to fulfil its Article 5 obligations before its deadline?

A: Since the beginning of the demining process in the country in 1995, at the time where there was only manual demining, after that the country acquired mechanical equipments in order to facilitate the clearing of huge areas in a short time. However, the Government of Angola has been endeavour every little effort for the procurement of new and advanced technologies. The existing cooperation between the Government of Angola and Spain also foresees the training of Angolan technicians on new technologies in demining.

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7. If mine action in your country is still conducted or partially managed by foreign organizations and / or international organizations, what are the steps that your State has taken to develop its national capacity?

A: In the moment, the Government of Angola assumed full responsibility in the management of ~~the entire~~ demining process in the country, counting with the support of the European Union and UNDP, most specifically in the strengthening of the Institutional Capacity and training of other stakeholders in mine action. Also to mention that there are now very few international humanitarian organization currently working in mine action since the beginning of the development phase in the country and the lack of financial support from donors.

8. What, if any, are your priorities for external assistance to support your State's fulfilment of its Article 5 obligations?

A: The priorities for external assistance to support our State in fulfilling with Article 5 obligations would be primarily the exchange of experience most especially from those countries that have already complied with Article 5 obligations. Secondly, training of technicians as well as the top management to better respond the operational challenges the mine action is going through in the country.

The priorities also reside in the strengthening of the capacity of the quality control teams within CNIDAH (National Mine Action Centre) as the governing body in mine action in the country, an increase of expertise in the data base sector of the institution so as to ^{gather} gather reliable information to help identify priorities and facilitate funding, and the acquisition of new Technologies so as to continue fulfilling Article 5 obligations under the Convention.